mosphere is filled with red fumes emanating from the LD containing iron particles and there have been cases of damage to eye sight of workers; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the authorities to contain this atmospheric pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The installed monitoring systems indicate that the atmospheric pollution by gas, dust and red fumes from the Rourkela Steel Plant is well within the prescribed norms.

(d) In order to reduce even further the environmental pollution through emanation of red fumes from the L.D. Stacks which are somewhat higher than the present day standards but have been brought down within the Detailed Project Report norms, the gas cleaning plant is being overhauled. It is also proposed to set up an additional gas cleaning plant under the Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation project after which this emanation would be almost completely checked.

Improper handling of blast furnaces at Rourkela Steel Plant

85 SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Blast Furnaces of Rourkela Steel Plant are not working properly for the last one year and due to this the company has suffered to the tune of over 200 crores of rupees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the improper handling of the OFU Furnace of Electric Sheet Mill of Rourkela Steel Plant, the company has suffered a loss of over Rs. 10 crores during this year; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken against the persons responsible for such national loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

CBI Investigation about Fraud in State Bank of Indore Branch, Chandni Chowk

86. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to S Q. 102 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17-11-88 regarding fraud in the State Bank of Indore, Chandni Chowk Branch, Delhi and state:

(a) what are the findings of the CBI regarding removal of Head Clerk by guilty officers; and

(b) what action has been taken by the Bank's management on the suggestions made by the CBI?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected, and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Complaints received from SC|ST staff Members of Lucknow Branch of State Bank of Indore

87. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether complaints have been received from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes staff members of Lucknow Branch of State Bank of Indore against some officers of the Bank during September/October of this year, regarding misbehavious/casteism etc.;

(b) If so, the number of such complaints received by the Head Office/Zonal Officer/Regional Office of the bank in this regard; and

(c) What action has been taken against the guilty officers of the State Bank of Indore, Lucknow Branch?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE

DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH). (a) to (c) The information is being collected and the same, to the extent available and admissible will be laid on the Table of the House.

Creation of separate cell by Nationalised Banks for Disposal of Loan applications of Women Entrepreneurs

88. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instructions to all the nationalised banks to create separate cells for expeditious disposal of loan applications from women entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal, and

(c) by what time the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not issued instructions to the banks for the creation of such a separate cell. However, women entrepreneurs, like other beneficiaries, can approach commercial banks for financial assistance, who may consider their request depending upon the technical feasibility and economic viability of the proposal. In terms of guidelines issued by RBI to all Scheduled Commercial Banks for priority sector advances, banks have been advised to dispose of all loans applications, including those of the women entrepreneurs, upto Rs. 25,000/- within a fornight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.

Financial position of the Nationalised Banks

89. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated 8-11-1990 wherein it has been stated that all banks, except Canara Bank and SBI, are in the "RED", mainly because the banking network has lost over Rs. 44,000 crores in the last three decades;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) what are the reasons for incurring losses by these banks;

(d) what is the balance sheet chart of each nationalised bank for the last five years, year-wise and bank-wise; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen the newsitem appeared in the Hindustan Times of 8th November, 1990 under the heading "Banks question RBI 'sick list'". It may not be correct to say that all banks, except Canara Bank and State Bank of India, are in the red. As per the published annual accounts for the year 1989-90, all the public sector banks, except New Bank of India and UCO Bank have shown profits aggregating to Rs. 366 88 crores. New Bank of India and UCO Bank have shown losses of Rs. 9.89 crores and Rs. 54.59 crores respectively.

(c) Banks being credit institutions, the risk of certain advances turning sticky and thereby resulting in losses to the concerned banks is inherent in the system. Advances may turn sticky due to certain internal and external factors such as lack of adequate credit appraisal machinery, ineffective post disbursement supervision, recessionary trends in the industry, natural calamities etc.

(d) The profits in respect of the public sector banks during the period 1985 to 31st March, 1990 as per their published Balance Sheets are given in that Annexure (*See* Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 2)